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Decrees Approved and Confirmed by the 40th General Assembly, 2004

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Decrees Approved and Confirmed by the 40th General Assembly, 2004

The Constitutions (C. 137, § 3°) state that: “The General Assembly, immediately representing the entire Congregation, as the supreme authority of the Congregation has the right:

3° to enact laws or Statutes, and Decrees, for the good of the Congregation, with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity. Statutes which are not explicitly abrogated remain in force. Decrees must be explicitly confirmed in order to remain in force.”

The 40th General Assembly (2004) confirmed decrees 1, 2 and 4 of the 39th General Assembly of 1998; modified decree number 3 of the same; and approved a new decree, number 5. Here are the updated texts.

Decree 1

The General Assembly declares that the present Constitutions, Statutes, and Decrees constitute the total proper law of the Congregation now in effect. If, as a matter of fact, any lacuna is discovered, provision can be made in accord with the norm of universal law, or, if the situation warrants, of our own previous law.

Decree 2

The monetary fund for the foreign missions and poorer provinces should be continued. The growth of this fund is left to the judgment of the Superior General.

Decree 3

The limits for extraordinary expenses that can be contracted by the Superior General:

- a) *On his own authority the Superior General can contract extraordinary expenses up to US \$ 25,000.*
- b) *Having heard his council the Superior General can contract extraordinary expenses up to US \$ 200,000.*

- c) *With the consent of his council the Superior General can contract extraordinary expenses up to US \$ 2,000,000.*
- d) *With the consent of his council, all members being present, the Superior General can contract extraordinary expenses over US \$ 2,000,000.*

Decree 4

Care must be taken that the brothers have representation in the General Assembly. It is left to the Superior General with his council to find a better solution for achieving this representation and for solving other cases in which representation in the Assembly is important but a legitimate election becomes impossible.

Decree 5

The Superior General with his council will devise, in consultation with the Visitors, a method of consultation in preparation for the election of the Superior General at the next General Assembly. The purpose of this method will be to provide to the members of the next General Assembly a list of those suggested for the office of Superior General, as well as information about these persons and their availability. The members of the General Assembly will always remain free to vote for other confreres.